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SECURITY COUNCIL
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LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT; FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE DIVERSIFICATION AND MODERNIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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* A/47/50.

TRAINING AND RESEARCH
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
NARCOTIC DRUGS
FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA

Letter dated 2 July 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I attach herewith the letter dated 15 May 1992 by which His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, transmits to you the paper prepared by the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (Group of Fifteen), of which he is the Chairman-Coordinator, at its annual meeting held from 27 to 29 November 1991 at Caracas, Venezuela, giving its position on the new world order.

President Abdou Diouf would be extremely grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 43, 47, 61 (f), 79 (a) and (b), 80, 81, 82, 83, 84 (c), 85, 86, 90, 94, 96 and 125 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mame Balla SY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 15 May 1992 from the President of Senegal addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the decision taken at its second annual meeting held at Caracas, Venezuela, from 27 to 29 November 1991, the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (Group of Fifteen) has prepared a position paper on the new world order which, in my capacity as Chairman-Coordinator, I have just made public and which I have the pleasure of transmitting to you for circulation as an official document of the United Nations (see appendix).

It is my hope that this paper will contribute to the emergence of a new international consensus for development and will provide meaningful support to you in the performance of your noble task.

APPENDIX

POSITION PAPER OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN ON THE NEW WORLD ORDER

We, the Heads of State and Government, members of the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation - known as the Group of Fifteen - being resolved to contribute to the creation of a world that is more just and equitable, hence more peaceful and prosperous and having analyzed the developments in the present international situation

Declare that:

1. The present period has been characterized by a series of events of world-wide scope and consequence which present, on the one hand, favourable prospects for global peace and prosperity through international cooperation and, on the other, pose complex challenges and uncertainties for all States, but especially for those of the South, with profound implications for the maintenance of international peace and security.

2. The end of the Cold War and the disappearance of East-West tensions, political developments in Eastern Europe, a movement towards disarmament, the progressive settlement of regional disputes and the emergence of closer regional cooperation, greater political democratization and popular participation in decision-making, and growing globalization and economic interdependence, provide a unique opportunity for the revival of international cooperation for development.

3. At the same time increasing interlinkages and growing economic interdependence have made developing countries more vulnerable to external factors especially as most have already undertaken autonomous liberalization of their economies, including their trade regimes and are moving towards deregulation and the opening up of their economies. Simultaneously, the imbalance and uncertainties in the management of the global economic system, with consequential strains on the world trade and payment systems, have acquired an endemic character. Moreover, the gap between the developed North and the developing South continues to grow and the economic and social problems of the developing world, despite some progress during the past few decades continues to be manifold. This has

been made more acute by a significant technological revolution that has affected patterns of production, consumption, trade, growth and markets. Developing countries strongly support a world economic order based on multilateral rules that respect free competition, the market, justice and fair play. The success of programmes of restructuring and economic development however, depend not only on national policies but also on conditions prevailing in the international economic environment.

4. The present global changes however, have not led to a renewed focus on Development. Rather, the trend in international dialogue reflects a dominant North-North approach and closer East-West political and economic cooperation. This carries the risk of increasing the marginalization of countries of the South which account for two-thirds of mankind.

5. Sufficient attention needs to be paid to development if the new wave of democracy and the lessening of international tensions is to prevail. Massive and persistent problems of poverty, under-development, unemployment, health and illiteracy are likely to undermine the consolidation of democratic processes and human rights. This in turn generates political and social tensions, the consequences of which could compromise the present trend towards global detente and cooperation and threaten global peace and security. Development, therefore becomes a precondition for sustaining democracy and global peace, all of which should be consciously worked for in a comprehensive and constructive manner.

6. Peace is indivisible and security is the right of all and not the privilege of a few. Global security can only be achieved and maintained if just and lasting solutions are found to all conflicts. Global security should, however, be viewed in terms of its multidimensional aspects and be based not only on military imperatives, but on a combination of political, economic and social factors which together could eliminate the risks to global security caused by problems such as underdevelopment, poverty, environmental degradation, terrorism and drug trafficking.

7. There is thus a common responsibility for the economic, social and political stability of the world and for the creation of a New World Order that is truly multilateral and non-discriminatory and takes into account the growing interdependence and mutuality of interests among the community of nations.

Democracy at the national level should continue to be of paramount importance and democratization among States should become a reality at the international level in order to facilitate the participation of all States in the process of international decision-making.

8. The United Nations should play the central role in a collective effort to define the New World Order which should be based on the rule of law and on the principles and purposes of the UN Charter relating to the concepts of sovereignty, equality and universality, and the acknowledgement of national specificities. It must also ensure the fullest respect for the territorial integrity and independence of States.

9. A clear awareness of the urgent need for shared responsibility and joint action to ensure world economic stability, irrespective of the economic and political power of individual nations, together with a growing convergence of views regarding the identification of global priorities, would facilitate the emergence of a new international consensus on development. While there is full commitment to the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, it is imperative that development is placed at the centre of the international agenda and a supportive international environment is created to facilitate the achievement of this objective. The collective right of peoples to develop should be given maximum emphasis and recognition. Moreover, the identification and pursuit of development goals must take into account the levels of development as well as the historical and socio-economic conditions of individual countries, the complementary roles of the State and market and cannot be fashioned according to the imposition of external norms and priorities.

10. The Group of Fifteen solemnly reaffirms its commitment to a constructive and continuous dialogue with the industrialized countries as an essential condition for the optimum management of global interdependence. An international consensus centred on development is an urgent necessity. The Group reaffirms its resolute will to strengthen multilateral cooperation and to work together in the quest for new ways of resolving problems through cooperation, a constructive spirit and mutual support. The Group of Fifteen declares its readiness to act to this effect with all its partners in the North and in particular those within the G-7.

11. The new international consensus should be expressed in a practical way, the main elements of which should include the following issues of concern and interest to the international community and, in particular, to the developing countries:

DEMOCRATIZATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

12. Democracy, human rights and development are three concepts of the greatest significance and must be addressed in an integrated manner. While it is important to promote the strengthening of the constitutional State, democracy and pluralism at the national level, with due respect to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, it is imperative that democratization among States should become a reality at the international level.

13. All States must promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights, taking into account their indivisible nature and the distinctive cultural characteristics of each nation. Civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are inter-related and should therefore be promoted and defended with equal commitment. It is necessary to further non-selective, non-discriminating international cooperation in the field of human rights, strengthening respect for freedom and concord in the political, legal, economic and social domains. The Right to Development must be recognized and accepted as a fundamental human right. Development is a prerequisite for the sustainability of democratic processes and the respect of human rights. The observance of human rights should be promoted in an objective manner by the relevant organs in the international system based on the principles of the UN Charter. It is also imperative that Democracy, Human Rights and Development should be the central theme of the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993.

DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

14. The process of disarmament should be linked to the process of development and the fostering of global security in its most comprehensive form. Developing countries will endeavour to encourage the process of disarmament globally and regionally, conscious of the necessity to channel the maximum resources for developmental purposes. Moreover, real

resources being released at present as a result of lower global military spending, should be diverted for the economic and social development of developing countries. The continuing trend towards disarmament resulting from the end of East-West confrontation, the reduction of military expenditures and the progressive reduction of international tensions should make it possible to extract a "peace dividend" in the form of financial and technical resources, for the enhancement of international development cooperation.

15. Appropriate structures or bodies should be established to implement this process and the creation of an International Fund within the framework of the United Nations, represents the best way of channelling resources freed as a result of disarmament for the purposes of development.

ERADICATION OF POVERTY

16. The fight against poverty should be understood not only in terms of providing assistance with a view to improving the living standards of the poor, but also as a means of reinforcing their economic well-being and long-term prospects. Furthermore, the interests of the economically and socially weaker sections of society who fall outside the market process must be safeguarded. It is necessary that a special commitment is made by the international community to initiate urgent measures to alleviate poverty in the least developed countries. The alleviation of poverty, especially in its most extreme forms, continues to be of prime concern to developing countries and must remain at the centre of national development efforts in the countries of the South and of international development cooperation.

TERRORISM AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

17. Terrorism has emerged as one of the most dangerous and pernicious threats to international, political and social stability and must be dealt with in an urgent and effective manner. Terrorism in fact violates the human rights of the innocent victims of its manifest activity.

18. Often, terrorism is linked with the global problem of illicit drug trafficking. It is essential to cope with this problem that the high levels of consumption in all countries be reduced and world-wide support is provided for drug

control and crop substitution strategies with a view to offering those agricultural workers involved in drug production with the option of legal, profitable and competitive economic activities.

FOREIGN DEBT AND THE FLOW OF RESOURCES

19. On the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, more positive, fair and realistic measures are called for to extend and broaden the mechanisms for reducing all types of debt, while being sensitive to the specific problems and needs of each country.

20. The recent implementation of debt reduction schemes are welcomed. These initiatives must be strengthened and broadened for all classes of debtor countries and must be more effectively implemented especially for those countries which have made great efforts to meet their debt obligations. The international community should moreover commit itself to ensuring a substantial increase in the net transfer of concessional resources to all regions of the South to revitalize the development process and free the developing countries from the overhang of the rising debt burden.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

21. Maintenance of an open, multilateral trading system is of prime importance for the expansion of world trade and the development of all countries. For this purpose, there is a need for multilateral rules that provide for an equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable international trading system which safeguards competition, promotes open markets, equity and fairness and creates better conditions for the effective integration of developing countries into the world economy. To this end no effort must be spared to obtain an early, balanced and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

22. A balanced, positive outcome from the Uruguay Round should reflect every aspect of the negotiations and take into account the interests of all parties concerned, particularly the needs of developing countries. In particular, the results should ensure the substantive enhancement of market access for developing country exports, rules and disciplines for the transparent and fair conduct of international trade and developing country access to technology

and investment. All forms of protectionism maintained by developed countries should be immediately halted and rolled back. Moreover, special attention should be given to reducing the balance of payments deficits of developing countries and to safeguarding the pursuit of their legitimate development goals and public policy objectives.

23. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is unique in terms of being a universal, multidisciplinary forum whose mandate places development as its cornerstone and has an important role in the international trading system. The Eighth Session of UNCTAD held in Cartegena des Indias (February 8-25, 1992) recognizing the urgent need for institutional adaptation and revitalization of UNCTAD has confirmed its role to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. Its functions compromising global policy analysis, intergovernmental deliberations, consensus building and negotiation, monitoring, implementation and follow-up, and technical cooperation should be strengthened.

PRIMARY COMMODITIES

24. A strengthened and effective international policy on commodities should be designed and pursued with a view to achieving a long-term solution to commodity problems and maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to development. Possibilities exist for international cooperation between producer and consumer countries. Given an improvement in access to markets, improved supply management and better use of technology, such cooperation should lead to the achievement of greater levels of diversification of the economies of developing countries which have become more competitive and increase their share in the processing, marketing and distribution of their commodity based products.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS

25. The emphasis being placed by developing countries on the process of economic integration is welcomed, and the creation of regional and sub-regional groups in the South should constitute one of the prime aspects of

South-South cooperation. These groups are in fact an asset to the development of a dynamic and mutually beneficial cooperation between the countries concerned. The collective efforts of the South, through such cooperation will help to build a negotiating platform that will offer the developing countries the status of a genuine partner in their relations with the North.

26. The present global trends towards economic integration, aimed at extending markets, increasing productivity and competitiveness and generating investment, must also be welcomed and encouraged. This trend, however, presents risks that must be firmly and resolutely faced by acting in such a way that the main aim continues to be the creation of an open and transparent world trading system.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

27. There is a need for the international community to explore ways and means for promoting cooperation in science and technology between developed and developing countries aimed at intensifying the transfer of technology to developing countries to help them enhance their own scientific and technological capabilities. It is necessary to improve the access of developing countries to new technologies on fair and reasonable terms and to foster their dissemination and use. The search for solutions to these problems could be made in the framework of the revitalization and strengthening of the UN bodies with expertise in science, technology and intellectual property. National, sub-regional and regional institutions concerned with science and technology must also be called on to contribute, and cooperation between enterprises and scientific and technological institutions from developed and developing countries should be encouraged.

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

28. To achieve sustainable development, the development and improvement of human resources are indispensable prerequisites as they will promote and reinforce scientific and technological capabilities as well as enhance the ability of countries to mobilize and rationally use their financial and natural resources. Effective cooperation among countries through the sharing of their resources, experiences and know-how can make a huge contribution to

improving and increasing the vast potential in human resources which the South possesses. Developing countries continue to give the highest priority to the development of human resources although efforts in this area have been hampered by the implementation of economic adjustment programmes which have compromised the development of health and educational facilities and other basic social services. International cooperation in this field must therefore be encouraged and enhanced, while respecting the cultural and social dimensions of development.

29. The development of human resources can only be achieved effectively where there peoples participation and respect for the rights and liberties of individuals, especially of women and children.

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

30. The threat to the global environment comes mainly from past and present industrialization practices and profligate consumption in the industrialized countries. This has negative repercussions on countries in general, with particularly harmful consequences for developing countries, which are more vulnerable to environmental problems.

31. Though firmly committed to the protection, preservation and rational use of the environment, the developing countries nevertheless need to give a fresh impetus to their economies in order to eradicate poverty, and to guarantee viable growth in both economic and environmental terms. The solving of environmental problems should be an integral part of strategies of economic development in order to ensure and consolidate the sustainability of both processes.

32. Agreements, programmes and any other global initiative, such as the forthcoming UN Conference on Environment and Development, the "Earth Summit", aimed at solving ecological problems and achieving sustainable development, call for concerted international cooperation in all areas, including the transfer of environmentally-sound technology, free and open trade and the availability of new and additional financial resources. International cooperation for the protection of the environment and the enhancement of sustainable development should be based on the principle of equitable and proportional responsibilities among nations, taking into

account the existing disparities between developed and developing countries and their respective capacities and resources. The implementation of such cooperation should respect the principle of permanent sovereignty of nations with regard to their natural resources. It should also give due importance to the principle that each country should have the right to determine its own priorities based on its needs and level of socio-economic development.

POPULATION

33. The high rates of population growth in almost all developing countries may represent a real mortgaging of their social and economic development. It is becoming imperative for those involved politically and culturally at national and international levels to be effectively called on to help to raise public awareness and mobilize political and popular commitment and the necessary financial and technical means to take a conclusive step towards the formulation and implementation of appropriate demographic policies. The World Conference on Population and Development planned for 1994 ought to be the opportunity for working out and adopting policies and programmes aimed at achieving global demographic objectives.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

34. An essential feature of the new international consensus on development is encouragement and support for South-South cooperation as a means of moving towards, on the one hand, increased collective self-reliance and on the other, sustained development nationally and regionally as well as globally.

35. South-South cooperation is an integral part of the strategy for giving a fresh impetus to international cooperation for development. The countries of the South must make full use of the possibilities for strengthening their links with each other so as to consolidate the foundations of their collective self-reliance. This implies developing and multiplying contacts, enhancing closer and more direct communication and transport links, the flow and exchange of information and knowledge, cultural exchanges and the harmonizing of positions on international questions. In this regard, it would be judicious to perceive the development of this cooperation in terms of an evolving process

into which the countries concerned must enter by way of viable projects open to all other developing countries.

THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

36. The Group of Fifteen strongly supports multilateralism in which inter-State relations are conducted in a truly democratic manner and in which no interests are ignored and from which no nation is left out. The global phenomenon of the resurgence of democracy should be extended to the international field through a genuine democratisation of international relations and the revitalization of multilateral structures under the United Nations, for security, disarmament and development.

37. The United Nations Organization should play a crucial role in the creation and maintenance of a New World Order. The United Nations would have to be reformed in such a way so as to increase its effectiveness to cope with the evolving international situation and to effectively eliminate the threats to global peace and security which have their roots in economic and social imbalances and underdevelopment. The basis for strengthening the role of the United Nations should be the recognition that the management of world affairs is a question of shared responsibility. One of the fundamental aims should be to rectify the imbalance among international bodies, which should give each other mutual support with a view to achieving their common aims, namely the maintenance of peace and international security, the promotion of economic and social development, the protection and restoration of the environment and the defence and promotion of human rights and democracy.

38. The revitalization of the United Nations should also be reflected in a strengthened role and function for the General Assembly and the office of Secretary-General. The Security Council should be democratized. It should be committed to the principles of openness and transparency in its decision-making and should act at all times with respect for the sovereign rights of States.

May 1992.